

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Militants

2117. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to recruit surrendered Punjab militants in police and paramilitary forces; and

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Food Subsidy Bill

2118. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India purchases foodgrains for the Central Pool at the Government fixed price;

(b) whether FCI issues grains to public and various agencies at subsidised rates ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the Food Subsidy Bill is in the increase during the last couple of years ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central issue prices of wheat and rice for distribution through the targetted Public Distribution System w.e.f. 1.6.97 are as under :

	Rs. per kg.			Wheat
	Common	Rice Fine	Superfine	
B.P.L.	3.50	3.50	-	2.50
A.P.L.	-	6.50	7.50	4.50

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Subsidy on foodgrains represents (i) the difference between the Economic Cost of foodgrains

and their issue prices, and (ii) carrying cost of foodgrains. While economic cost of foodgrains has increased mainly because of increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in MSP/naked cost of grains, the issue prices have not increased correspondingly. There have also been increases in the carrying cost because of increase in interest charges and increase in freight rates etc. Following important steps have been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain the economic cost and carrying cost:

- (i) Making continuous efforts to achieve the average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Government to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Non-filing up of entry level posts to reduce the administrative cost and increase productivity;
- (iv) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains ;
- (v) Release of stocks in open Market at prices above the Central Issue Price for PDS.

[Translation]

Central Assistance for Agriculture in Haryana

2119. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to Haryana for the development of Horticulture and Floriculture since 1990 ;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years ;

(c) whether the State Government has utilised this financial assistance for which it was provided;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether his Ministry has conducted any monitoring to ensure proper utilisation of Central assistance ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Assistance to the State under the Central schemes for development of horticulture is being provided since 1990. Assistance for the Central Scheme of Floriculture is being provided since the commencement of the scheme from 1992-93.